

TABLE 3.—Summary of availability of water by river basins in the Mississippi embayment

[See bottom of table for descriptive terms relating to low flow of stream, ground-water yield, dissolved solids, hardness of water, iron, and for U.S. Public Health Service recommended limits for drinking-water standards for dissolved solids, iron, fluoride, and nitrate. Parts per million, ppm; cubic feet per second per square mile, cfs per sq mi; million gallons per day, mgd; gallons per minute, gpm; hours, hr.]

Basin Source	Headwater diversion channel, St. Johns Bayou, and Little River basins (pl. 1)	St. Francis River basin, except Little River basin (pl. 1)	White River basin (pl. 1)	Arkansas River basin (pl. 2)	Upper Ouachita River basin to, and including, Saline River basin (pl. 2)	Bayou Bartholomew, Houff and Tensas River basins (pl. 2)	Lower Ouachita River basin, below Saline River basin, except Bayou Bartholomew, Houff, Tensas, and Dugdenosa River, and, Cator Creek basins (pl. 2)	Red River basin, except Saline Bayou basin (pl. 3)	Sabine River basin (pl. 3)	Dugdenosa River, Cator Creek, and Saline Bayou basins (pl. 3)	Big Black River and Bayou Pierre basins (pl. 4)	Pearl River basin (pl. 4)	Pascagoula River basin (pl. 4)	Yazoo River basin (pl. 5)	Tombigbee River basin (pl. 6)	Ohio and Cache River basins (pl. 7)	Tennessee and Cumberland River basins (pl. 7)	Shawnee, Mayfield, and Obion Creeks, and Bayou du Chien basins (pl. 7)	Obion River basin, except Forked Deer River basin (pl. 7)	Forked Deer River basin (pl. 7)	Hatchie River and Cold Creek basins (pl. 7)	Loosahatchie and Wolf River, and Nottoway Creek basins (pl. 7)	Basin Source		
	Low flow well sustained in head-water diversion channel and St. Johns Bayou; poorly to very well sustained, but mostly very well sustained, in Little River basin. 11 samples at 3 sites indicate water hard to very hard, iron 0.0-0.8 ppm (all but 3 samples 0.0-0.4 ppm), nitrate 0.2-0.4 ppm (only 1 sample exceeds 0.4 ppm), fluoride 0.0-0.2 ppm (only 1 sample exceeds 0.2 ppm), silica 8.5-26 ppm.	Low flow very well to well sustained above, and poorly sustained below, mouth of Little River. 3 samples at 2 sites indicate water hard to very hard, iron 0.0-0.8 ppm, nitrate 0.2-0.4 ppm, silica 8.5-26 ppm.	Low flow of tributaries very well sustained from Black River upstream and poorly sustained downstream from Black River. 11 samples at 6 sites indicate water soft to low to very hard in upper part of basin; from 0.0-0.8 ppm, nitrate 0.2-0.4 ppm, silica 8.5-26 ppm (only 1 sample exceeds 0.4 ppm).	Low flow of tributaries poorly sustained. 1 sample insufficient for indication of quality.	Low flow of tributaries well sustained above Little Missouri River and poorly sustained in and below Little Missouri River. Except for 1 site where difficult water are present, 10 samples at 5 sites show most water soft, and low in dissolved solids. Water in Little Missouri River basin is moderately hard, 10 samples show iron 0.0-0.2 ppm, fluoride 0.0-0.3 ppm, nitrate 0.1-0.3 ppm, silica 1.4-19 ppm.	Low flow well sustained south of and poorly sustained north of about 32°42'. 6 samples at 3 sites show water soft to moderately hard, iron 0.0-0.2 ppm, fluoride 0.2-0.4 ppm, nitrate 0.2-0.4 ppm, silica 1.5-11 ppm.	Low flow poorly sustained, except for Bayou de Loutre which is well sustained. Except for 3 sites where difficult water are present, 10 samples at 5 sites show most water soft, and low in dissolved solids, and some water moderately hard to very hard in excess of 0.2 ppm), fluoride 0.0-0.2 ppm (1 sample in excess of 0.2 ppm), nitrate 0.0-0.1 ppm, silica 24-34 ppm (1 sample in excess of 29 ppm).	Low flow poorly sustained, except for Bayou de Loutre which is well sustained. Except for 3 sites where difficult water are present, 10 samples at 5 sites show most water soft, and low in dissolved solids, and some water moderately hard to very hard in excess of 0.2 ppm), fluoride 0.0-0.2 ppm (1 sample in excess of 0.2 ppm), nitrate 0.0-0.1 ppm, silica 24-34 ppm (1 sample in excess of 29 ppm).	Low flow of tributaries poorly sustained, except for some streams near south edge of embayment in Louisiana where the low flow is well sustained. Except for 3 sites where difficult water are present, 10 samples at 5 sites show most water soft, and low in dissolved solids, and some water moderately hard to very hard in excess of 0.2 ppm), fluoride 0.0-0.2 ppm (1 sample in excess of 0.2 ppm), nitrate 0.0-0.1 ppm, silica 24-34 ppm (1 sample in excess of 29 ppm).	Low flow poorly sustained. No quality information.	Low flow of Saline Bayou and western part of Dugdenosa River basins well to very well sustained; eastern part of Dugdenosa River and in Cator Creek basins, poorly sustained. 2 samples insufficient for indication of quality.	Low flow well to poorly sustained. 4 samples at 2 sites show water soft, low to moderate in dissolved solids (0.2-0.4 ppm), iron 0.0-0.4 ppm, fluoride 0.0-0.4 ppm, nitrate 0.2-0.4 ppm, silica 2.5-9.9 ppm.	Low flow well to poorly sustained. 4 samples at 2 sites show water soft, low to moderate in dissolved solids (0.2-0.4 ppm), iron 0.0-0.4 ppm, fluoride 0.0-0.4 ppm, nitrate 0.2-0.4 ppm, silica 2.5-9.9 ppm.	Low flow very well to well sustained. No quality information.	Low flow in western part of basin (Mississippi River alluvial plain) very well sustained. Indices for Quiver River and most eastern tributaries to Yazoo, Tallahatchie, and Cache Rivers are lower, but low flow well sustained. In eastern part of basin low flow is North-Tippah Creek and Yazobata River basins. 15 samples at 3 sites show water soft to low in dissolved solids less than 100 ppm in 80 percent of samples. Low flow in North-Tippah Creek where water is moderately hard, low to moderate in dissolved solids, iron 0.0-0.4 ppm (exceeds 0.2 ppm in 2 samples), fluoride 0.0-0.2 ppm, nitrate 0.2-0.4 ppm, silica 1.5-11 ppm.	Low flow in western tributaries north of Nottoway River basin (about 10 percent of the aged area) poorly sustained. 15 samples in remainder of basin well to very well sustained. 25 samples at 13 sites show water soft to low in dissolved solids, iron 0.0-0.4 ppm, nitrate 0.2-0.4 ppm, silica 2.5-9.9 ppm.	Low flow in Ohio River tributaries and Cache River poorly sustained. 10 samples at 5 sites show water soft, low in dissolved solids, iron 0.0-0.4 ppm, nitrate 0.2-0.4 ppm, silica 2.5-9.9 ppm.	Low flow in Tennessee River tributaries in Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee very well sustained, except for isolated covehead streams in most of which low flow is well sustained. In Kentucky, low flow is poorly sustained. 10 samples at 5 sites show water soft (except in Turkey Creek where water is moderately hard), low to moderate in dissolved solids, iron 0.0-0.4 ppm (exceeds 0.2 ppm in 2 samples), fluoride 0.0-0.2 ppm, nitrate 0.2-0.4 ppm, silica 2.5-9.9 ppm.	Low flow poorly sustained in upper parts of Mayfield and Obion Creeks and well sustained in lower parts; very well sustained in Bayou du Chien. 3 samples at 3 sites show water soft, low in dissolved solids, iron 0.0-0.4 ppm, nitrate 0.2-0.4 ppm, silica 2.5-9.9 ppm.	Low flow very well sustained, except for some streams in northwestern part where low flow is well to poorly sustained. 12 samples at 5 sites show water soft, low in dissolved solids, iron 0.0-0.4 ppm, nitrate 0.2-0.4 ppm, silica 2.5-9.9 ppm.	Low flow very well sustained, except for some streams, principally Nottoway Creek and tributaries to the Loosahatchie, for which low flow is well to poorly sustained. 4 samples at 3 sites show water soft, low in dissolved solids, iron 0.0-0.4 ppm, nitrate 0.2-0.4 ppm, silica 2.5-9.9 ppm.				
Paleozoic rocks	Small to moderate yields. Water is very hard and moderate to high in dissolved solids.	Small to moderate yields. Water is very hard and moderate to high in dissolved solids.	Not used as source of water supply in basin. Yields probably small. Water probably is very hard and moderate to high in dissolved solids.																					Paleozoic rocks	
Lower Cretaceous rocks																									Lower Cretaceous rocks
Tuscaloosa Group or Formation and Woodbine Formation																									Tuscaloosa Group or Formation and Woodbine Formation
Eutaw Formation and Tokio Formation																									Eutaw Formation and Tokio Formation
Coffee Sand and Oren Formation																									Coffee Sand and Oren Formation
Ripley Formation or McNairy Sand, and Natchez Sand																									Ripley Formation or McNairy Sand, and Natchez Sand
Wilcox aquifers																									Wilcox aquifers
Carrizo Sand and Meridian-upper Wilcox aquifer																									Carrizo Sand and Meridian-upper Wilcox aquifer
Cane River Formation; Redkey Formation; Queen City Sand, and Weches Greenand, and Winona-Tallahatchie aquifer																									Cane River Formation; Redkey Formation; Queen City Sand, and Weches Greenand, and Winona-Tallahatchie aquifer
Sparta Sand																									Sparta Sand
Memphis aquifer																									Memphis aquifer
Cockfield Formation or equivalent																									Cockfield Formation or equivalent
Forest Hill Sand																									Forest Hill Sand
Catahoula Sandstone																									Catahoula Sandstone
Quaternary deposits	Small to large yields. Water is hard to very hard, moderate to high in dissolved solids, and contains iron.	Small to large yields. Water is very hard, moderate to high in dissolved solids, and contains iron.	Small to large yields. Water is very hard, moderate to high in dissolved solids, and contains iron, and in places has a pH of less than 7.0.	Small to large yields. Water is soft, moderate to high in dissolved solids, contains iron, and in places has a pH of less than 7.0.	Small to large yields. Water is soft, moderate to high in dissolved solids, contains iron, and in places has a pH of less than 7.0.	Small to large yields. Water is moderately hard, moderate to high in dissolved solids, contains iron, and in places has a pH of less than 7.0.	Small to large yields. Water is moderately hard, moderate to high in dissolved solids, contains iron, and in places has a pH of less than 7.0.	Small to large yields. Water is very hard, moderate to high in dissolved solids, contains iron, and in places has a pH of less than 7.0.	Small yields. No quality information.	Large yields in extreme western part of basin. No quality information; water is probably hard, moderate to dissolved solids, and contains iron.				Small to large yields. Water is very hard, moderate to high in dissolved solids, contains iron, and in places has a pH of less than 7.0.	Small to large yields. Water is hard, moderate to high in dissolved solids, contains iron, and in places has a pH of less than 7.0.	Small to moderate yields. Water is moderately hard, moderate to high in dissolved solids, contains iron, and in places has a pH of less than 7.0.	Small to large yields. Water is very hard, moderate to high in dissolved solids, contains iron, and in places has a pH of less than 7.0.	Small to large yields. Water is very hard, moderate to high in dissolved solids, contains iron, and in places has a pH of less than 7.0.	Small to large yields. Water is hard, moderate to high in dissolved solids, contains iron, and in places has a pH of less than 7.0.	Small to large yields. Water is hard, moderate to high in dissolved solids, contains iron, and in places has a pH of less than 7.0.	Small to large yields. Water is hard, moderate to high in dissolved solids, contains iron, and in places has a pH of less than 7.0.	Small to large yields. Water is hard, moderate to high in dissolved solids, contains iron, and in places has a pH of less than 7.0.	Small to large yields. Water is hard, moderate to high in dissolved solids, contains iron, and in places has a pH of less than 7.0.	Small to large yields. Water is hard, moderate to high in dissolved solids, contains iron, and in places has a pH of less than 7.0.	Quaternary deposits

Low flow of stream:  
Very well sustained, low-flow index is more than 0.08 cfs per sq mi.  
Well sustained, low-flow index is from 0.0 to 0.08 cfs per sq mi.  
Poorly sustained, low-flow index is less than 0.01 cfs per sq mi.

Ground-water yields:  
Large yield, more than 1 mgd. (1 mgd is about equal to 694 gpm for 24 hr.)  
Moderate, 0.1 to 1 mgd.  
Small, less than 0.1 mgd.

Dissolved solids:  
Low dissolved solids, less than 100 ppm.  
Moderate, 100-300 ppm.  
High, 300-1,000 ppm.  
Saline water, more than 1,000 ppm.  
Fresh water, less than 1,000 ppm.

Hardness of water (as CaCO<sub>3</sub>):  
Soft, 0-50 ppm.  
Moderately hard, 51-120 ppm.  
Hard, 121-180 ppm.  
Very hard, more than 180 ppm.

Iron:  
Some iron, median value of iron in chemical quality tables, 0.1-0.3 ppm.  
Iron, median value more than 0.3 ppm.

U.S. Public Health Service recommended limits for drinking-water standards:  
Dissolved solids should not exceed 500 ppm, except where water of this quality is not available.  
Iron should not exceed 0.3 ppm.  
Fluoride, maximum range downward from 1.7 ppm for an average maximum daily temperature of 60° F. to 0.8 ppm for an average maximum daily temperature of 90° F.  
Nitrate should not exceed 45 ppm.